

West Virginia Influenza Summary, Week Ending June 22, 2013 (MMWR Week 26)

Dear Influenza Partners,

West Virginia has reported influenza activity as “**No Activity**” for MMWR week **26** (week ending Saturday June 22, 2013).

During the summer months the weekly partner e-mail will only be sent out monthly unless there is something to report out to stakeholders.

Currently national influenza activity is low and the 2012-13 influenza season is considered over. West Virginia has reported “No Activity” since the middle of May. The 2012-13 influenza season was characterized as a moderately severe influenza season. Compared with recent years, there were more reported deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza, higher rates of hospitalization (especially among people 65 years and older), and a higher percentage of outpatient visits for flu-like illness. Relative to previous seasons this season had an early start as flu activity peaked in late December.

Influenza A (H7N9)

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported. The new H7N9 virus has not been detected in people or birds in the United States.

Influenza A (H3N2v)

The state of Indiana has reported 4 cases of human infection with H3N2 variant virus infection (H3N2v). All four cases reportedly attended a county fair and at least two of the cases are reported to have had exposure to swine. These are the first H3N2v cases reported for 2013. In 2012, 309 cases of H3N2v were detected in the United States with 3 cases from West Virginia. Exposure to pig, especially close contact with pigs, is the main risk factor for infection with this virus. As fair season begins in West Virginia, the Bureau for Public Health encourages anyone at high risk of serious flu complications planning to attend a fair where pigs will be present should avoid pigs and swine barns at the fair. For more guidance to protect you against H3N2v visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-cases.htm>.

Weekly influenza surveillance graphs for West Virginia and the most recent information available on influenza can be found at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/default.aspx>. Because of late reporting, we must sometimes update information in retrospect. The website will always have the most up-to-date numbers. Please feel free to contact us at (304)-558-5358, extension 1, with any questions regarding this report.